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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**TENNESSEE JUDGE ORDERS \$224,052 RESTITUTION FOR VICTIMS OF  
HAZARDOUS WASTE DUMPING**

A Dickson County man has been ordered to pay \$224,052 in restitution to the victims of his illegal hazardous waste dumping. The restitution order is believed to be the largest environmental crimes restitution order in Dickson County history.

Kenneth Wayne Bush, a former construction contractor and waste hauler, pleaded guilty last year to criminal charges stemming from the illegal disposal of hazardous and other wastes, including felony environmental vandalism and felony unlawful disposal of a hazardous waste. Bush was alleged to have been responsible for about 100 truckloads of waste and debris, including barrels of toxic benzene, to illegally buried in an undeveloped 60-acre parcel next to Laurel Hills subdivision in Dickson. At his original sentencing last year, Judge Sexton sentenced Bush to imprisonment for two consecutive three-year terms, and suspended the sentence, on the condition that defendant Bush pay restitution.

If the defendant Bush does not timely pay the court-ordered restitution of \$224, 052, he will have his probation revoked, and will serve his full six year sentence in prison. Bush may also be liable to his victims for any restitution that remains unpaid at the end of his sentence.

Benzene is a chemical known to cause significant harm to human health, including cancer; nerve system damage, reproductive damage, reduced resistance to disease and anemia.

"Our office is determined to vigorously enforce Tennessee's environmental protection laws our protects the quality of life for present and future generations," said Tennessee Attorney General Paul Summers.

Dickson County District Attorney Dan Alsobrooks said of the ruling, "The illegal dumping had serious environmental and financial consequences. The landowners on whose property the hazardous waste was dumped without their permission got stuck with almost \$150,000 of clean up costs and special damages. The nearby innocent landowners saw the fair market value of their land drop by over forty thousand dollars. The State Department of Environment and Conservation paid over thirty thousand dollars in emergency response costs and clean up supervision. Others were hurt also. This office will aggressively prosecute anyone who violate the law by hauling and illegally disposing of waste in Dickson County."

“The Department of Environment and Conservation is particularly pleased that the Court required restitution to the people victimized by this environmental crime,” said Environment and Conservation Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan. “This sends a clear message that those who commit environmental crimes are going to be required to pay the price.”